

MAR 22 1962

Approved For Release 1999/09/16 : CIA-RDP70-0005

STATINTL

Invasion Record Set Straight

An official White House statement quite properly sets the record straight on President Kennedy's knowledge during the 1960 campaign of plans for an invasion of Castro's Cuba.

Former Vice President Richard Nixon made the charge in an about-to-be-published book that the President, then a senator, was briefed by the Central Intelligence Agency on invasion plans.

A statement issued by Press Secretary Pierre Salinger for the President denies this. Former CIA Director Allen Dulles confirms the White House statement. Mr. Dulles says Mr. Kennedy wasn't apprised of invasion plans until Nov. 18, 1960, after his election.

We don't believe Mr. Nixon was guilty of deliberate misrepresentation. He said his statement was based on President Eisenhower's instructions that Mr. Kennedy was to receive a full briefing.

The facts indicate that Mr. Kennedy inherited a poorly planned project which led to the fiasco of the Bay of Pigs on April 17, 1961. Whether he might have handled it better if he had known of the plans sooner is anyone's guess.